

SCDHEC Oral Health Division

Standing Orders for Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants

I. Introduction

The following standing orders outline specific authorizations for the treatment of conditions commonly seen by dental hygienists (DH) in school settings without prior consultation with the supervising dentist of the School Dental Prevention Program according to the statutory provisions of the South Carolina Dental Practice Act 2003. These standing orders are based on the individual level of training and experience of the Dental Hygienist (DH) or Dental Assistant (DA). Standing orders must be authorized every year, but may be amended in the interim based upon a change in the skill level of the DH or DA.

II. Documentation

The DH or DA shall have access to the patient's medical history and parental consent forms. The DH or DA will accurately record all treatment, findings and impressions in the patient record.

III. Consultation and Referral

The DH or DA will use professional judgment while providing therapy. When doubt arises, the DH or DA shall seek consultation with a dentist. The DH or DA may directly refer patients for consultation.

IV. Medications

The DH may use the following medications without specific prescription. Documentation in the patient record must include dosage and concentration.

Topical anesthetic
Irrigants
Desensitizing agents
Topical Fluoride gel or varnish
Chlorhexidine varnish

V. Standing Orders

_____ RDH or Dental Assistant is authorized to perform the following procedures in a school setting according to the accepted methods of the School Dental Prevention Program and the Oral Health Division of the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Procedure	Requested	Program Approved (Dentist)	DHEC Review
Expose Intraoral radiographs	_____	_____	_____
Expose panoramic radiographs	_____	_____	_____
Diagnostic casts	_____	_____	_____
Perform oral prophylaxis	_____	_____	_____
Apply topical fluoride	_____	_____	_____
Provide nutritional counseling	_____	_____	_____
Provide prevention plan and education	_____	_____	_____
Check and provide oral hygiene instruction	_____	_____	_____
Provide tobacco use intervention	_____	_____	_____
Apply or re-apply sealants	_____	_____	_____
Perform oral screening	_____	_____	_____
Provide hypertension screening	_____	_____	_____
Apply desensitizing agents	_____	_____	_____

*According to the South Carolina Code of Laws Title 40-Chapter 15-Section 40-15-80 (G):
Dental hygienists practicing under general supervision must maintain professional liability insurance.

Please print the name of the Dental Hygienist or Dental Assistant on the appropriate line below:

Dental Hygienist Date

Dental Assistant Date

Supervising Program Dentist (Please Print) Date

Supervising Program Dentist (Signature) Date

Copy received and reviewed by:

DHEC Division of Oral Health Director Date